



The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

Communicator

September 2014

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and Much More!

The Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

September 2014



At The Last Meeting...

SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Club Officers and Directors

The SARC Directors met after the June Annual General Meeting and, in keeping with our Constitution, appointed the Officers of the organization for the 2014-2015 term as follows:

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

SECRETARY

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV
(also Net Manager)

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor & Membership)Stan Williams VA7NF
SEPAR LiaisonBill Gipps VE7XS
RAC LiaisonAl Peterson VA7ALZ
Director-at-large

Minutes of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club Annual General Meeting

June 11, 2014

Introduction

Out-going President John VA7XB opened the meeting at 1900 hr and welcomed everyone. He advised that this was the AGM for fiscal year 2013/2014, which ended on May 31st. Only members in good standing could vote on club business. It was confirmed that the 23 members present at the start of the meeting (which later grew to 27 after late-comers arrived) constituted the necessary quorum (25% or more of the membership of 79) with no non-members present. The new slate of Directors would commence their duties immediately after the AGM. John reminded members that payment for Field Day meals was required immediately and that raffle tickets are available for those members who have not already received a book.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Hiu VE7YXG and seconded by Jinty VA7JMR that the agenda be

approved - the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2013 AGM Minutes

As the 2013 minutes were re-published in the June 1st Communicator and have been available on SARC's website for several weeks, John VA7XB requested any corrections or additions and, with none forthcoming, requested a motion to approve the 2013 minutes. John VE7TI so moved, Brett VE7GM seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Annual Financial Report

Scott VE7HA presented the Balance statement and the Income Statement for 2013/2014 fiscal year, as audited by Paulette Schouten VE7VPE. Scott provided balances for our two bank accounts, which exceed the combined balance last year at this time. The income statement reflected the same increase of income over expenses, if equipment depreciation is excluded from expenses. It was moved by Joe VE7TOL and seconded by Kjeld VE7GP that the financial statement be approved; the motion carried unanimously. Paulette was thanked for her professional help in auditing the books.

- **Cruise-in and Raffle:** Bill VA7ZBL was unable to attend the AGM but raffle tickets are available for those who have not already received a book. Until a successor for Bill's duties can be arranged, tickets can be obtained from John VA7XB. All members are encouraged to take one or more books. Ticket stubs and cash must be returned prior to the draw, which will take place on Sept. 6th at the Langley Cruise-in; both can be returned at the Kalmar Friday breakfast during the summer. A notice will be sent out in August requesting help at the SARC Cruise-in booth.
- **Tuesday Night Net:** the net will continue on an informal basis through the summer with net control taken by any willing volunteer if the regular is absent.
- **Friday Breakfast:** the Friday morning breakfast group will continue to meet through the summer. John VE7TI suggested that we also have an informal meeting - similar to last year - on our normal meeting night (2nd Wednesday of July and August) at MacDonald's Restaurant King George Blvd and 72nd Ave.
- **After-meeting social at MacDonald's:** the social will continue this evening, as usual.

Fall Program:

- September 10th - will include task assignments and an in-house swap meet in the parking lot
- October - John White VA7JW on antenna modeling
- November - Heinz VA7AQ on his IOTA expedition TBC
- December 6th - Christmas party at the Kalmar
- **Suggested Future Meetings:** Joe VE7TOL was agreeable to do a Raspberry Pi talk

IOTA Expedition: Heinz VA7AQ announced that he is planning an IOTA expedition to Texada Island July 23-26 and he may be looking for additional participants; all involved would be responsible for their own costs. Those interested should contact Heinz: va7aq@shaw.ca

Kit Building Program: this provides up to \$50 rebate for members who: a) build a radio-related kit b) give a short talk to the club, and c) provide a write-up for

the Communicator. An email to, and response from, a member of the Exec will confirm suitability of the proposed project.

Bhim VA7BIM has donated a new Baofeng dual-band handheld radio to SARC, which will be retained for a door prize at the Christmas party. Thanks were expressed to Bhim for his generous donation.

Fred VE7MPI announced that he has found a local source for 20 ft. long fishing poles suitable for use in antenna construction and at a future meeting he is willing to describe his latest project using the poles.

Committee and Other Reports

Reports, presented verbally, are included at the end of the minutes.

Discussion arose out of the Communicator report, specifically a suggestion that the Communicator should be provided free-of-charge to any person who requests it, as a form of promotion for the club. This was not resolved but will be taken back to the Executive for further consideration.

Regarding the operator training & contesting program, Stan VA7NF announced that VE7SAR had achieved first place in the 2014 BC QSO Party Multi-operator low power SSB category with a score of 169,184. Operators cited on the certificate were: IZ7FMM/VE7, VE7AXU, VE7NAE and VE7XEN.

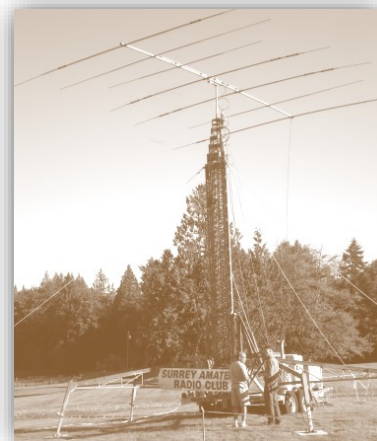
New Business: There was none

Election of Directors

Anton VE7SSD presided over the election of Directors, explaining that consistent with the revised bylaws, 4 Directors are elected each year for a 2-year term, staggered so there are 8 Directors in total. With 1 Director standing down and 4 others having expired terms, the membership was required to elect up to 5 Directors. A slate of nominees was presented comprised of:

- Brett VE7GM
- Bill VE7XS
- Stan VA7NF
- Alan VA7ALZ
- John VA7XB

Anton VE7SSD requested further nominations from the floor 3 times. There being none, it was moved by Nelson VE7NAE and seconded by Al VE7CDC that the foregoing slate be



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To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

September 2014



"The annual SARC 'Fox Hunt' is now a regular event on the SARC calendar. It has grown in popularity and this year was no different."

approved by the membership; the motion carried unanimously.

Field Day Planning

A series of slides was presented highlighting areas requiring additional volunteers, or equipment for FD - only those items that have not been already dealt with or fully assigned were discussed.

Conclusion

John VA7XB thanked retiring Directors Bill VA7ZBL and George VE7QH for their faithful service during the year and welcomed new Directors Stan VA7NF and Alan VA7ALZ to the team. The appointment of Officers will be decided at the next Executive meeting and the results announced immediately thereafter. The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hr.

Committee/Other Reports

Membership (Bill VA7ZBL)

Paid membership now stands at 79 plus one honorary member (Marvin Hunt, MLA). This year we introduced fees payable by PayPal, details of which may be found on our web page. The membership list is constantly changing as we add new members and update existing ones. The list has several uses such as emailing the Communicator, Christmas party list for Jinty and currently tracking our progress with lottery ticket sales.

This is my last year as Director and membership keeper. I would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance in maintaining the records.

John VA7XB noted that we will be looking for someone to take over as membership chairman, with Bill's term as Director now at an end.

Raffle (John VA7XB)

No formal report, as comments were made under "Announcements".

Foxhunt (Anton VE7SSD)

The annual SARC "Fox Hunt" is now a regular event on the SARC calendar. It has grown in popularity and this year was no different. The event was held on May 10th in Crescent Park in South Surrey. SARC members and Hams from Burnaby, Delta clubs and Victoria supported the event - 24 hams and some spouses in total.

This year for the first time we had 80 m foxes also .

There were five low wattage VHF transmitters (foxes) plus five 80m foxes and 2 HF 80M micro foxes hidden throughout the park and participants were allocated two hours to find them. This year entrants either novice or advanced were all grouped together, with double points being awarded to novices. This somewhat leveled the playing field for all.

Though the event is focused on improving one's RDF skills, it's really all about having some fun and exchanging ideas about home brew directional antennas and attenuators.

The second half of the event was the informal BBQ. With brilliant weather, members enjoyed warm camaraderie and recreation over a burger and hot dog.

Recognition and thanks go to Amel VE7KBA of BC Radio Sport for his efficient handling of all the technical aspects of the "foxes". Many thanks also to all the volunteers for their assistance at the BBQ.

Mark your calendars, approximately same time next year and we look forward to another successful event.

The results:

1st place: Les Tocko VA7OM 1h 48m 5sec

2nd place: Anton James VE7SSD

3rd place: Steve and Karen Draper VE7FM and VA7KD

The financials - participants paid \$10 for the BBQ and after expenses we raised a total of \$131.42 net for the club, due in part to use of left over FD stuff and donations by Al Peterson VA7ALZ and Geoff Higginson VA7HIG

Inventory (Anton VE7SSD)

The club inventory has been updated over the past few months with creation of an Access database. Club Items are available for loan to members, who are required to complete a form which commits to the terms of the loan. A list of available club items will be posted on the website over the summer.

Net (Rob VE7CZV)

The SARC Tuesday night nets have been steadily attended this year. We have been able to bring on 2 new Net Control Stations: Elizabeth VA7ELA and Nelson

VA7NAE. The net can always use new NCS operators. Anyone who is interested please contact me, ROB VE7CZV, or any of the other EXEC members. robgil@telus.net or 604-581-1084.

QSL Manager (Nelson VE7NAE)

VE7SAR only sends out paper QSL cards in response to cards sent to us, and we've traded 23 cards this year. Seven went out through the RAC outgoing bureau, the rest included either return postage or money for direct mailing.

Brett Garrett VE7GM set us up for ARRL's Logbook Of The World, and I have uploaded all of our logs from Field Day 2013 to the present, all 5,834 contacts. By uploading our logs, anyone who wants to use a contact with VE7SAR for any sort of LOTW award will have that contact instantly and automatically confirmed; as of Tuesday afternoon, 2,319 stations have had their contacts with us confirmed.

Before the September meeting, once the majority of stations will have uploaded their logs from Field Day 2014, I will check to see if the club has qualified for any sort of QSL award.

Repeater (George VE7QH)

This year has been a good year for our repeater system. It worked well, despite the challenges presented by the effects of corrosive air in the room in which the repeaters are located.

One year ago, incidents of the repeater locking up caused us to lose some traffic. This problem was traced to the IRLP node equipment. Changes were made to work around the problem and traffic was restored. No further technical issues impaired the performance of our repeaters despite the effects of the corrosion to all our equipment resulting from the bad air emitted by the furnace and boiler equipment in the room. The problem was resolved within months after the landlord accepted responsibility for poor airflow design and made the necessary changes.

We were warned, however, that combustion gases may be present for a few minutes when the furnaces start and were advised to enclose our equipment and ventilate it with outside air so as to avoid any more problems. We are still awaiting the completion of the

enclosure. The design for the enclosure has been approved and funded but construction has yet to begin. There will be no cost to the Club for this project.

Our repeater system has continued to operate in simulcast mode, with the VHF and UHF repeaters linked. Any transmission can be heard on both repeaters; any traffic from the IRLP or Echolink nodes is heard on both repeaters as well. These nodes can be accessed from either repeater, and therefore only one local user can use the node at a time. Only IRLP node 1736 is available.

The repeaters are linked in order to encourage traffic on UHF, as most contacts are made on 2-metres. To further encourage traffic, the IRLP node is often connected to a reflector so that the traffic on the reflector is heard locally and local Hams are encouraged to join in.

We look forward to another successful year, serving the Club and SEPAR with a communication system that covers our city well and one we can all be proud of. Suggestions for improvement and other comments are always welcome.

Operator Training (Brett VE7GM)

This was a busy season for the Operator Training program. Last year we focused mainly on introducing the world of contesting to a larger group of members through the Get-Your-Feet-Wet sessions. This year we focused on working with members who were anxious to develop their contesting skills to an advanced level.

A look back at the statistics for the year brings out some interesting facts. We held 13 training sessions: Six for SSB, two for CW, one for SSB and CW, and 4 for RTTY. There were a total of 63 trainee sessions, with 19 individuals taking part.

This was a year of great progress in operator capabilities, and we can expect to see the months-long dedication paying off in this year's Field Day score.

Thanks to John VA7XB, Jim VE7FO, and Fred VE7IO for opening up their shacks and hosting the training events this year.

"This year has been a good year for our repeater system. It worked well, despite the challenges presented by the effects of corrosive air in the room in which the repeaters are located."



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Tower For Sale

Dennis VE7BPE has a 48' heavy duty Delhi self supporting tower for sale. It is located in Chilliwack. It is in good shape, no rust. It includes a rotor plate for a HAM IV rotor (rotor not included) and a mast that extends about 1.2 metres (4 ft) above the top plate. A custom machined guide bearing at the top of the tower is included. The buyer needs to take it down — \$300 obo

Pictures are available. Contact him at: drac7ft@gmail.com

Communicator (John VE7TI)

It has been my pleasure to publish 11 issues of the SARC Communicator during the past year, 10 monthly issues and a Field Day wrap-up. As a result of newsletter sharing through RAC, we have broadened our readership beyond Surrey, and even beyond North America. To this end the SARC Directors have decided to create a 'Newsletter Only' subscription option for \$10 but only for those living outside the Greater Vancouver area. (That was my report - Obviously policy may change)

As always, the Communicator is only as good as the content. Much of the content is gleaned from a variety of other news sources. We have about six regular contributors who share everything from Club events, personal experiences and writing articles on specific subjects. If each members contributed one small item each year we would be flush with content and be able to make the Communicator an even more interesting read for other club members.

While most members at the AGM indicated that they view the Communicator online, some still print it. With this in mind, look for a revised format for the newsletter in September.

Website (Hiu VE7YXG)

The website is running smoothly as it should, there are no access or down time problems since last June. The email box for the Club also functioning well.

As requested by Scott VE7HA, the PayPal service has been added to our home page. The service is working without problem and some members were using it to order the name tags and pay membership fees in advance.

Up to June 7th, there were 5,848 visitors who visited our website 10,295 times and made 102,156 hits since the beginning of this year.

The five most visited pages are:

- the home page
- the lightning presentation page
- the Communicator page
- the 555 Timer Calculator page
- the Morse Code page

The contents and formats of the site will be reviewed as usual in the coming summer. Members' inputs are welcomed.

Equipment (Rick VE7GMO)

In the absence of Rick, John VA7XB reported that the two trailers were recently serviced by Rick. Work included checking tire pressure, lubricating all grease fittings, topping up the battery, checking that the generator starts, etc. This equipment is ready for Field Day.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (Bill VE7XS)

RAC Financial Position is positive, and we continue to grow membership, reduce costs and defend / extend Amateur's privileges in Canada (60 Meters for example). We are looking seriously at a 'Virtual Office' to further reduce costs and allow us to invest more in Information Technology - to support our members better. A new RAC website will be available this year. The AGM for RAC is here in New Westminster in July, 2014. There is lots of effort underway on the ARES front - training courses for example.

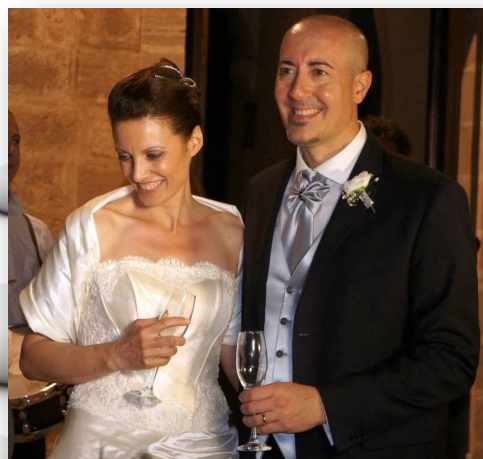
Operating Tip:

Sometimes your handheld transceiver is just not sensitive enough to pull in a weak station, you are in a poor location or you cannot reach your target contact.

Make sure you keep your radio in a vertical position, as far from your body as possible. A 'Tiger-Tail' (a 17-inch length of thin insulated wire) attached to your antenna connector ground and left to dangle will make up the half of the dipole that is missing and can make a significant difference in signal strength.

Congratulations Alex and Simona Danese

Just after Field Day, Alex IZ7FMM departed for Italy. He has returned with his new bride Simona. I'm sure you'll all join with the SARC Executive in wishing them a long and happy future together.



"Congratulazioni. I nostri migliori auguri e tanta felicità"



September 2014



Norm's Ramblings

Norm Schmidt VE7IIT

"I recall vividly spending many evening hours with the smell of solder wafting through my nostrils..."

Thoughts on my first exposure to Ham Radio:

I had just graduated from high school, and was heading for higher education at UBC, and one of the early events at that campus was the annual drive for new memberships at the various clubs that exist at that locale... everything from Public Speaking courses, to Decorative Basket Weaving!

As I went around, talking to the various promoters of their clubs, I came across the UBC Ham Radio Club... I had always liked to play around with electrons of some type, and the idea of getting into the club piqued my interest. I was advised that there was a course being offered on the Theory of Radio, and classes were available in learning the International Morse Code (a requirement, in those days, to get one's ham licence).

Within a few weeks, I found myself constantly being drawn to the Ham Shack (rather than spending time at the University Library... where I should have

been studying!), but I found the *Theory of Ham Radio* drawing my every free moment. That is, until the results of the Mid-Term exams came out... just before the Christmas recess.

My dad, a high school teacher, brought it forcibly to my attention that *something had to be done about my marks...* and my first dalliance with radio had to come to an end. However, that first infection with ham radio had taken its toll: over subsequent years, I started to build various HeathKits... first a multi-meter, and even many years later of building the venerable HW-101 transceiver.

I recall vividly spending many evening hours with the smell of solder wafting through my nostrils... my wife being a registered nurse, worked a lot of shift work... and my constant companion was the enjoyment of making marks on the kitchen counter with a hot soldering pencil. By that time, I had made friends with a local ham (Mike Heritage, now a *Silent Key*) was my mentor (or, more correctly, my "*Elmer*" who encouraged me with my affliction of Ham Radio).

Still, I was not *On the Air*, and decades passed before I decided to attempt to write the multiple-question *Industry of Canada* 'test of proficiency' exam. By this time, my late wife was fighting a battle with her cancers, and at the time of one her many surgeries, I had booked myself to write the exam, but suddenly she was in for more surgery, and the first of that month suddenly presented itself unexpectedly... I decided the evening before that I should write the exam... just to get the 'feel' of the exam... it didn't matter to me whether I passed it or not...



The Heath HW-101, Norm's radio. There are still many working examples of this transceiver and they are common at Ham swap meets.

But being former *College Boy*, I had some insight into how to handle a multiple-question exam, and I found myself leaving my fellow candidates in just over half hour, much to the surprise my fellow would-be-hams. To my great surprise, the examiner placed the 'stencil' over my answers and seemed to be noting my answers... suddenly looking up at me and asking me if I had \$12 in my pocket. My response was, "*I thought the examination was free...*", to which he remarked, "... well, you've just passed the exam..."

I quickly dug into my wallet and found the necessary funds, and received the call sign VE7IIT, which I have to this day.

Since the original contact with Ham Radio 1948, many times I found myself purchasing magazines that had the theme of *Radio*... everything from "*Popular Science*" to Hugo Gernsback's "*Modern Electronics*"... occasionally even to purchasing the annual copy of "*Radio Amateur's Handbook*", as my funds would allow (I can recall it rising to a whopping \$8.00 a copy!). In 1942, the *Handbook* was available from the ARRL for \$1.00 (postpaid \$1.50, outside of Continental U.S.A.).

The big names in radio technology in the early days included, *National*, *Hallicrafters*, *Hammarlund*, *Eimac*, most of which are now just memories. Hams, in the 40's and 50's were largely solder enthusiasts, but if a ham built his own transceiver, it had to be examined by a federally-appointed inspector before turning on a key.

At U.B.C. Ham Club, we were running largely war-surplus 250 watts of AM radio transmission equipment that was crystal-controlled frequency... a few hams had graduated to VFO control at that time, but were required to be as stable as a

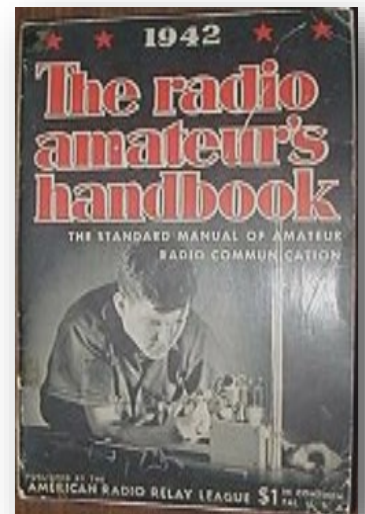
crystal. The transmitter stood as tall as a home refrigerator, including the power supply. The transmitting tubes were as large as a milk bottle, and one could put one's hand the transmitter to fondle the tubes (also war-surplus, available for a few pennies on the dollar).

I recall being able to hear a few local (Vancouver-based) hams on the 2-meter band... these were the true *edge-of-Space* experimenters, in 1948! Side-band reception was that funny Donald Duck sounding voice on a few of the bands, again using home-brew equipment. It was an un-written law at the Club to leave the transmitter turned 'on' to allow the crystals to stabilize to the frequency that we were transmitting.

And, yeah... by utilizing the Club call... in those days VE7ACS, every novice, student, and unlicensed enthusiast used the transmitter. We had a sked with a university club down in Texas, and we also hopped over to Australia, as the winter 'skip' came alive.

These are but a few of the early memories of my early days 'in the shack'...

~ Norm VE7IIT



In 1942, the Handbook was available from the ARRL for \$1.00

"I recently saw an auction on eBay for a 1942 ARRL Handbook "Defense Edition". What does this "Defense Edition" mean? I assume it has something to do with the War at that time.

N3DRB answers: "They couldn't publish any transmitter stuff among other things that could be construed as possibly helpful to the enemy.

September 2014



The Contest Contender

John Schouten VE7TI

The Orca DX and Contest Club sponsors the BC QSO Party, an annual 'made-in-BC' contest held in February. The objective for BC stations is to work anyone anywhere, and stations outside BC have to work VE7/VA7s. Both the SARC and SEPAR organizations sponsor BC QSO Party awards.

As with contests in general, the exchange (information passes between stations to confirm the contact) is the

their contesting skills. Under the initial mentorship of Jim Smith VE7FO and Fred Orsetti VE7IO we have developed a skilled group of testers who have now achieved high scores in major contests and achieved first place in Field Day in our category.

This year's BC QSO Party entry was hosted by John Brodie VA7XB at his home station using the club callsign VE7SAR. As you can see from the

You can obtain further information on the contest at URL:

<http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp.html>

for all the necessary details about the BCQP, including rules, exchange and multipliers.

As pointed out on their website, contesting is not everyone's cup of tea. The casual and friendly atmosphere of the BCQP presents certain advantages that the high-stakes contests cannot, for example, the slower pace allows newcomers to ease into the world of contesting and try out contesting strategies without irritating operators who are only interested in a high score. This is great practice for Field Day, a RAC contest or even emergency communications practice.

It's great for practicing different modes without the pressure of an impatient pileup and for acquiring familiarity with new logging software or remote operations.

It's also an excellent opportunity to hone operating and Elmering skills.

In addition, the QSO party format is more relaxed, allowing for a bit of chit-chat along with the exchange for people who don't particularly like contests. The BCQP can be a really fun event, and the more participation there is, the more fun it becomes.

Please participate in BCQP 2015, I'm certain that SARC will be involved.

~ John VE7TI



**VE7SAR
First Place
Award**

federal electoral district for BC stations and province or state for non-BC stations.

SARC has participated in this event for the past couple of years as part of our Contest Training Group. As regular readers will recall, this group was created within the SARC membership for those operators wishing to improve

attached certificate, the group scored very well and are congratulated on their success as top multi-operator, low power SSB BC station.

The successful operators were Alex IZ7FMM/VE7, John VE7AXU, Nelson VA7NAE and Keenan VE7XEN. Congratulations to the group!

Go-Tenna

Gimmick or a Disaster Communications Accessory?

On October 29, 2012 Hurricane Sandy descended upon the New York and New Jersey coastlines. Among the storm's many casualties were some of the area's cellphone towers, leaving millions of residents stripped of both electrical power and their usual cell phone service. "I was thinking, 'Is there any way to make cell phones communicate, so even in the worst case scenario like Sandy, when you have no power or Wi-Fi, you can still communicate?'" Daniela Perdomo says. "The only thing that does that is Bluetooth, and for that you have to be within 20 feet, so you might as well just speak loudly. We figured out that the only way to do that was an external piece of hardware."

By November 2—less than a week later—Perdomo had sketched out a plan for goTenna, a gadget that could have given people stuck without service the ability to use their phones again. By February 2013, she had physical prototypes.

GoTenna is part disaster relief, part slick smartphone accessory that Perdomo created with the help of Brooklyn-based design

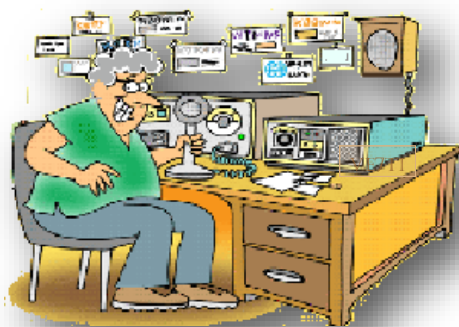
firm Pensa (before goTenna, Perdomo worked at a string of New York-based software startups). It's a five-inch aluminum and nylon device that pairs with a fairly basic iPhone or Android messaging app. When users lose service, rather than scurry around in search of bars, they can instead open that app to text other goTenna users. Texts first get sent to the native goTenna device over Bluetooth LE, where—thanks to the circuit board, radio chips, and antennae hidden within—the gadget emits radio frequencies to transmit an analog version of the message to the receiving user. GoTenna users can use group messaging, and send their current location to contacts—a feature designed especially for emergency situations. The battery lasts about three days on, or up to a year and a half if it's normally kept switched off.



GoTenna is part disaster relief, part slick smartphone accessory



September 2014



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com for inclusion in this column.*

Advanced Amateur Radio Course

*The Delta Amateur
Radio Society will be
holding an advanced
radio course starting
in November 2014.*

*As the advanced
course is far more
intense than the basic
course I would advise
all interested hams to
please read the page
regarding the
advanced course on
our website.*

http://deltaamateurradio.com/wp/?page_id=402

*You may register on
the website and an
early bird special does
apply. Any questions
feel free to email:
gi@deltaamateurradio.com*

We Have A New Patch!

Over the summer we received our order of 100 club patches. These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at the meeting or a Friday morning breakfast.



Maple Ridge ARC FoxHunt

The Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club 2014 foxhunt will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2014, at Rolley Lake.

Registration and Instructions 9:00 - 10:00; 2m foxhunt commences at 10:00, 5 foxes + beacon, limit 2 hours. Lunch (bring your own) from 12:00 to 1:00. The 80m foxhunt commences at 1:00, 5 foxes + beacon, limit 2 hours. Two categories, Beginners and Old Timers - 3 foxes + beacon; Experienced - 5 foxes and beacon

To get there, take Dewdney Trunk Road from Maple Ridge, turn left at Bell Street, drive to the end, turn left again and drive to the parking lot at picnic area.

Talk in 146.800 -MHz (156.7 Hz). Please RSVP to Les Tocko, VA7OM VA7OM@telus.net

Rolley Lake map: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/rolley_lk/rolleylake.pdf

For Sale

Icom IC-PCR1500 Software Defined Receiver, as pictured below. AM/FM/SSB and more, covers 0.010-3299.999 MHz. Requires a Windows computer. More specs and details at <http://goo.gl/W88hAQ>. Great reviews on eHam. MSRP \$499 offered at \$250. Selling this for a friend up north, contact John via email ve7ti@separs.net





Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio

722

RADIO AMATEUR NEWS

June, 1920

NAME

ADDRESS

STATE

ELECTRO IMPORTING COMPANY,
231A Fulton St., New York City.

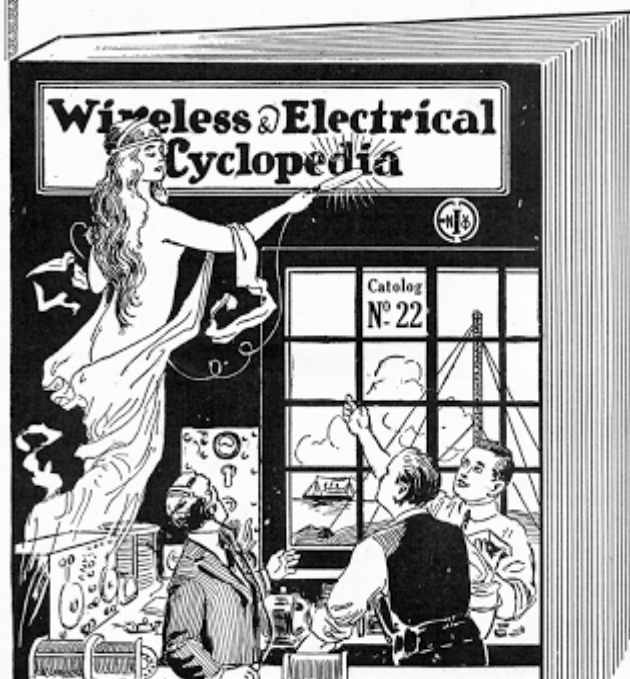
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latest Cyclopaedia Catalog No. 22 con-
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R.A.N. 9-20

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The Electro Importing Co.
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"EVERYTHING FOR THE EXPERIMENTER"

IN this cyclopaedia you will find all about radio. One of the greatest catalogs of its kind in print.

You will find in it dozens of wireless instruments of the famous E. I. Co. make. Remember always that this company was the FIRST to make and sell wireless instruments, the first wireless outfit having been placed upon the market by them in 1904. The E. I. Co. knows how, because it has the experience.

Others imitate but cannot equal E. I. Co. for quality and workmanship.

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X-ray tubes, Telephones, Magnets, Low Tension Transformers, Books, etc., etc. IN A WORD THE MOST COMPLETE CATALOG IN PRINT

ELECTRO IMPORTING CO.
231A FULTON STREET NEW YORK, N. Y.

"Everything for the Experimenter"

**A Few Interest-
ing Things from
Catalog No. 22**

Treatise on Wireless
Telegraphy by H.
Lecroix, Editor
Electrical Experi-
menter and Radio
Amateur News—11
big pages, 2 illus-
trations.

The Wireless Law of
1913—all about it.
What you can do
and what you can't.

How to receive and
send Radio mes-
sages.

How far you can send
messages.

Table of wave lengths
of principal U. S. &
foreign Radio high
power stations.

How to receive these
signals by Radio.

How to construct an
audible aerial.

How to use the test
buzzer.

How to join the "Radio
League of America"
FREE, including
application blank.

Experiments with a
portable telephone re-
ceiver, with 3 il-
lustrations.

Experiments with
spark coils.

All about storage bat-
teries, how to test
them, recharging,
etc.

Tools experiments, 3
pages.

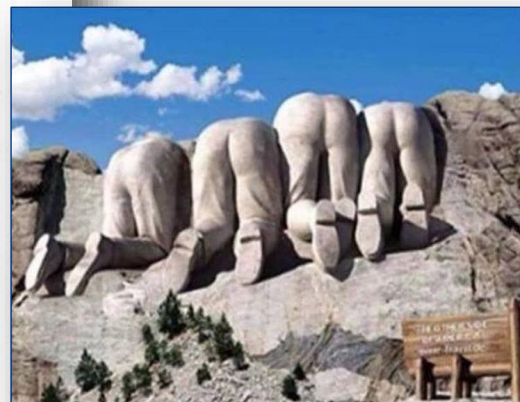
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I recently had one of those off-shore scam calls by a guy claiming to be from Microsoft. He said I had a virus on my computer and to type in the commands he provided. I decided to play along and managed to keep him on the line for 15 minutes with my responses. He became increasingly frustrated with me and finally asked what kind of computer I had.

When I told him "a Commodore-64" he swore and hung up on me. Those guys have no sense of humour!



Mount Rushmore...
As seen from the Canadian side.

September 2014



SEPAR Report

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



"...we now have a group of 24 SEPAR members who have been exchanging messages using RMS Express from their own radio shacks."

Over the summer SEPAR has been meeting regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month focussing on digital messaging. Don, VA7GL, has provided structured training sessions on the use of RMS Express software. The training has moved along much faster than anticipated and we now have a group of 24 SEPAR members who have been exchanging messages using RMS Express from their own radio shacks. Don has worked through ten lessons with each lesson building on the previous one reaching the stage where we will do an exercise using RMS Express and Peer to Peer (P2P). Photos of the most recent training session are on the next page.

SEPAR received a letter from the Surrey Libraries complimenting us on our demonstration at Doors Open. We used this letter in support of our gaming grant

application which has now been filed. If successful the funds will allow us to complete the work needed on the communications trailer as well as funding our community events program. We will not know if we are successful until November at the earliest.

SEPAR members were invited by the Coquitlam ARC to tour the Coast Guard communications center in Vancouver at the Harbour tower facility. There were 4 seats available and they filled up very quickly. Our tour guide was Bob (standing in the top photo) who gave us a very good explanation of the Coast Guard facility.

Below are some shots of the facility.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separs.net



Coming SEPAR Event:

CN Family Day will be held this year on Sunday September 7th at Thorton yard 11717 138th Street Surrey B.C. V3R 6T5. Setup will be around 0800 and finishing around 1500. Last year we had the trailer on site and this worked out very well. Volunteers are needed to help with the demonstration. Please contact Fred ve7io@separs.net

SEPAR Goes Digital!



On Tuesday, August 26 Fred VE7IO hosted a SEPAR monthly training session at his home in South Surrey. It was a beautiful evening to be outside and several stations were distributed around his yard.

*The SEPAR trailer was activated and those present used **RMS Express** to practice logging in and to send traffic between stations. The intent is for SEPAR to complete the bulk of emergency message traffic in digital format to enhance speed and accuracy.*

The post exercise debrief revealed some issues, primarily that two stations exchanging traffic are unavailable to the rest of the network while so engaged. Procedures and processes will have to be examined to make the best use of this technology.

September 2014



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



Joe Zaccaria
VE7TOL

Joe Zaccaria was born and raised in Rhode Island in the United States. In Grade 6 he became interested in history and global affairs. While in high school he joined the Civil Air Patrol, (the civilian auxiliary of the USA Air Force). He stayed with this organization even after graduating high school. With them he became a radio operator using military frequencies and went on search and rescue missions.

Joe worked in law enforcement after leaving high school and during all this time served in both law enforcement and with the Civil Air Patrol simultaneously. Joe left the Civil Air Patrol after being with them for 8 years and law enforcement after 6 years. Following this he worked for fraud investigation in the hospital system which was an eye-opening experience for him. Eight years after that he became the director for a medical centre. All this happened while living in Rhode Island.

Joe stated that eventually he became "bored out of his skull" and longed for international adventure. He wanted to have to conform to another culture and learn another language. Consequently, he chose Thailand to fulfill this desire and worked for a member of the Thai Royal Family who happened to be a woman lawyer. He acted as general manager for a group of companies that she owned.

Through her he met a Thai policeman who worked in narcotics which led to Joe working as a private investigator for corporations, tracking pirated goods and the people producing them. Then he got what he called his "big break" and went to work as managing director for Pinkerton Security in Thailand as an international consultant which he did for 6 years. This involved him travelling to numerous countries throughout Asia and Europe.

In September of 2000 Pinkerton was sold and Joe left Thailand. After visiting Vancouver, BC he decided it would be a nice place to live so in April 2001 he immigrated to Vancouver. He established his own private security company called JAZ Consulting Ltd., which he still owns.

Joe now lives in Langley. He had always been interested in ham radio and in 2012 took the Basic License course under Gary

Skett and passed with honours. Joe recognizes he was an "A" type personality, and, true to his personality he became involved in all aspects of ham radio. He caught the HF 'bug'.

He built a sophisticated Grab & Go kit "Gator Box" (see photo) which allows him to use VHF, UHF and HF to talk to hams all over the world. Joe belongs to the Langley Amateur Radio Club and SARC... Yes, you guessed it... that was not enough for Joe, as he is also a volunteer with the Blaine Police Emergency Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS). In addition he helps out with Langley Emergency Services. He participates in Washington State nets. Understandably, he does not have much time for a personal life.

Joe told the writer that he does not consider he is an A type personality any more but much more laid back... hmmm! Joe has a 1½ year old black Labrador called "Bentley". He stated that he could not afford a Bentley car so he named his dog Bentley!

Joe has 2 goals for the future 1) to get his Advanced radio license and 2) to master CW. He says he is having the time of his life with ham radio. Joe has a good sense of humour, a strong sense of integrity and reliability and he never commits to anything he cannot do.

What an exciting life Joe; which goes to show that you have a keen sense of adventure... when is the movie coming out?



September Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	3	4	5 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	6 0800 Langley Cruise-in:
7 SEPAR Event CN Family Day Thornton Yards (Port Mann)	8	9 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	10 1900 SARC General Meeting EM BC PREOC, 14275 96 th Ave.	11	12 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	13 Contest: Worked All Europe (SSB)
14 Contest: Worked All Europe (SSB)	15	16 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	17	18	19 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	20
21	22	23 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	24 1900 SARC Exec Meeting	25	26 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	27 Contest: CQ WW DX (RTTY) Maple Ridge ARC Foxhunt
28 Contest: CQ WW DX (RTTY)	29	30 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone				

For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net

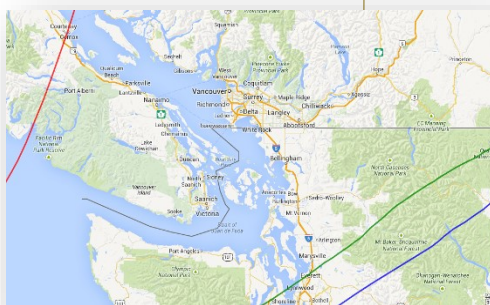
For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar

September 2014

434 MHz Party Balloon B-64 Completes Epic Journey

A dollar store foil balloon and a tiny transmitter

*...remain aloft and
continue to circle the
Earth.*



See the track of B-64 at
<http://habitat.habhub.org/mobile-tracker/>

At about 16:30 GMT on Friday, July 31, the solar powered B-64 party balloon launched by radio amateur Leo Bodnar MØXER crossed the 1 degree West longitude line completing its circumnavigation of the northern hemisphere in just over 19 days. Each balloon carries a tiny 10 mW solar-powered transmitter that can alternate between APRS and Contestia 64/1000 digital mode on 434.500 MHz (USB). The Amateur Radio payload weighs just 11 grams.

The balloon completed its transatlantic crossing and came within range of Cornwall, UK in the morning. Oliver De Peyer M6ODP happened to be visiting St Michael's Mount in Cornwall at the time. He used his Kenwood TH-F7E handheld to receive an APRS packet from the balloon. As the day progressed B-64 moved from just south of Cornwall up the English Channel and radio amateurs and listeners from Manchester to Nantes in France were able to receive the 10 mW Contestia 64/1000 and APRS signal on 434.500 MHz. B-64 passed over the Isle of Wight and floated over Bognor Regis and across Kent heading out into the North Sea near Herne Bay. Air currents have carried B-64 within 9 km of the North Pole and within 10 km of its launch site.

Leo Bodnar MØXER launched his balloon from Silverstone in the UK at 07:00 GMT on July 12, 2014. Using the amateur radio APRS network and the UKHAS network its location was tracked over Europe, Siberia, a brief sojourn across North Korea before heading out over Japan and across the Pacific Ocean. It then briefly entered the United States before swinging north into Canada near Vancouver. It was heard in Greenland by Peter Thulesen OX3XR and on Friday morning finally came within range of the British Isles.

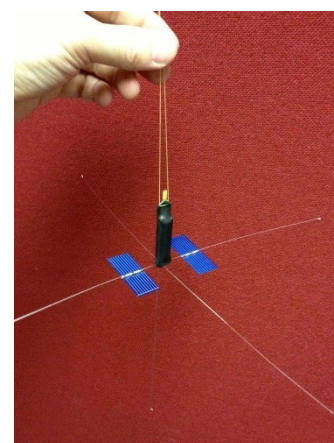
The three plastic foil-envelope balloons carrying Amateur Radio payloads remain aloft and continue to circle the Earth. The oldest, identified as B-63, was released on July 8 and became the second of Bodnar's balloons to circumnavigate the globe. The last balloon to make it around the Earth was B-66, which Bodnar released on July 15.

As of this week, the B-64 balloon (MØXER-4 on APRS) was north of Moscow, Russia, at an elevation of more than 40,200 feet; the B-63 balloon (MØXER-3 on APRS) appeared to be located nearly 42,000 feet above South Korea, and the B-66 balloon (MØXER-6 on APRS) appeared to be nearly 44,000 feet above Ukraine.

The numeral following the "B" denotes the number of similar balloons Bodnar has launched (B-65 failed to deploy). The transmitter stores positions during its flight and transmits a log file that can recall 5 days of previous locations in the comments field of its APRS transmissions. If it has been out of radio contact, however, a straight line will appear on the APRS map.

Just 4 weeks earlier, thanks to Chris Stubbs M6EDF, the Society had launched a balloon CARS-1 from their meeting venue. That balloon didn't have solar power so the signal only lasted for about 10 hours.

*Typical 434
MHz solar
powered
payload -
Image credit
Leo Bodnar
MØXER*



Pot Grow Lights Interfering With Hams



The Coloradoan reports that Marijuana growing operations, using grow lights can emit interference blocking radio broadcasts on both the ham radio and AM spectrum

Tom Thompson W0IVJ noticed high levels of interference on the bands and built a portable antenna system he could use to walk his neighborhood and track down whatever was interfering with his radio transmission.

With 22 states and the District of Columbia allowing medical marijuana, and Colorado and Washington permitting recreational use, there's been an explosion in the number of people growing their own pot, much of it indoors. With that growth has come increasing interference from the grow lights.

The interference problems from one type of system have got so bad that the amateur radio association, ARRL, filed a formal federal complaint on behalf of the country's 720,000 licensed ham operators. The problems are worst in Colorado and California, said Sean Kutzko KX9X, an ARRL spokesperson.

Read the full story at:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/local/2014/06/05/pot-growers-lights-interfering-ham-radio-chats/10015757/>

QSL Received

Our Field Day contact with the International Space Station N1SS and astronaut Reid Wakeman certainly received [media attention](#). We have now exchanged QSL cards, and our received QSL is shown here.

A QSL card is a written confirmation of either a two-way radiocommunication between two amateur radio stations or a one-way reception of a signal from a station.

A typical QSL card is the same size and made from the same material as a typical postcard, and most are sent through the mail or QSL Bureau as such.

QSL card derived its name from the Q code "QSL". In this case, QSL? means "do you confirm receipt of my transmission?" while QSL means "I confirm receipt of your transmission".



The International Space Station (ISS) is sponsored by Canada, Japan, Russia, the USA and many nations in Europe. ISS crews hail from these and other nations. Major hardware elements are:

- Zarya, Zvezda, Pirs, research modules Poisk and MRM-1 Rassvet built by Russia
- Science lab Destiny, Unity, Quest, Harmony and Tranquility modules provided by the US
- Canadian Mobile Servicing System, a 55-foot mobile robotic arm used for assembly and maintenance
- Columbus module, a science laboratory provided by ESA
- Kibo module, a science laboratory provided by Japan.

ISS crews and visitors often use their Amateur Radio station, first set up in Zarya and then Zvezda, to talk with school students to aid in their education, plus chat with fellow radio amateurs around the world. The ARISS Team continually works to extend ISS Amateur Radio station capability with new operation modes and, more recently, equipment placement in the Columbus module.

Field Day 24 DX

To	VE7SAR					
From	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	
☒ NA1SS ☐ RS0ISS ☐ OR4ISS	28	June	2014	2133	2 meters	
Mode:	☒ Voice	☐ Packet	☐ SSTV	☐ APRS	☐ Repeater	☐ SWL

September 2014

**QRT**

John Brodie VA7XB

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Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

**SARC Photos
Web Albums**

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

What Kind of Member Are You?

This has been an unusually agreeable summer weather-wise with lots of opportunity to enjoy all that life has to offer. We have taken full advantage of it with two trips to the beach at Parksville with the grandkids as well as a camping trip to give the older ones the novel experience of sleeping in a tent in the great outdoors. The last time we did this was with our own kids 30 years ago. We were gratified to find that modern tents are much easier to erect than they were 3 decades ago. Believe it or not, our old Coleman gas stove still containing half a tank of old gas started first time.

Although at our age we prefer a soft bed off the ground and a shower once a day, we survived and it simply made us more appreciative of the comforts of home. Over the last 2 months, we also interspersed these family affairs with some purely adult activities in the company of friends. Sadly, the summer is nearly over with just the hope of a few weeks of warm weather extending into September.

Free of other obligations in the summer, we were also provided the opportunity to catch up with reading and here's something I came across which has relevance to SARC. It's titled "What Kind of Member are You?" - Anon:

*Some are like a wheelbarrow,
going no farther than they are pushed
Some are like a balloon, full of hot air*

*Some are like a rope,
they have to be pulled*

*But some are like a good watch -
Useful, quietly busy and reliable*

SARC, like most organizations, has the full range of members described above. The ones in shortest supply but most needed to keep an organization vibrant are the last category. Soon we will be having our first meeting of the Fall season and at that time will be discussing the coming year's program. In addition to the usual Christmas Party, Spring Foxhunt and Field Day we hope to be scheduling presentations, contests, training events and possibly workshops to encourage members to grow in their hobby, take on new technical challenges and achieve a higher level of proficiency.

However, the scope of these activities will depend strictly on the level of involvement of the membership. Your Executive is enthusiastic and willing to provide the leadership to make it a better club, but it is not reasonable to expect these dedicated individuals to take on their shoulders tasks that should rightly be shared amongst a strong volunteer base. We will adjust our activities to the resources available.

To be blunt, if we have an insufficient number of volunteers, the activity will be dropped. So at our September meeting, you will be asked what assignments you are willing to take on. Please consider what you personally can do. You may be surprised at the satisfaction that can result from generously contributing your time and talents to the benefit of the entire membership.

~ John VA7XB

September Meeting

On Wednesday, September 10 at 1900 hrs we will meet for the first meeting of the new season at the EMBC PREOC. It promises to be a full agenda. One of the items will be a strategic planning session that will focus on the important question: "What do you see as the Club's direction going forward?" Please take a few moments before this meeting to ponder the subject and come prepared to express your views at the meeting. Some of the other topics that may arise are use of the repeater or, more accurately, lack of use, fund-raising and lack of membership involvement in many of our events.

After the business session we will adjourn for the 2nd annual in-house swap meet. Bring your surplus and unwanted ham gear and a few bucks in case you see something that you cannot live without.

From the SARC Video Vault

Courtesy of Fred Orsetti. VE7IO I recently received a copy of an old video tape depicting some early SARC Field Days up on McKee (Monkey) Mountain in Abbotsford.

The video was digitized and we are now able to watch this historical footage on YouTube at the following URLs:

Field Day 1985 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF385teFNAU>

Field Day 1987 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e7sCDyE6EI>

Field Day 1986

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kampKC_DDaA&list=PLzqTnqobbifpFyJ8RqTE6kIO2mUP09I5Y&index=2

Field Day 1988

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnVru38UAco&list=PLzqTnqobbifpFyJ8RqTE6kIO2mUP09I5Y&index=4>

All the videos for Surrey Amateur Radio:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzqTnqobbifpFyJ8RqTE6kIO2mUP09I5Y>

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Stdby	Drew VA7DRW Brett VE7GM Stdby
2nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Stdby	Jinty VA7JMR
3rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX	John VA7XB
5th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV @ separs.net		

Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt BC
PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100 hrs
14923—64th Ave, next
to Firehall #9, Surrey.

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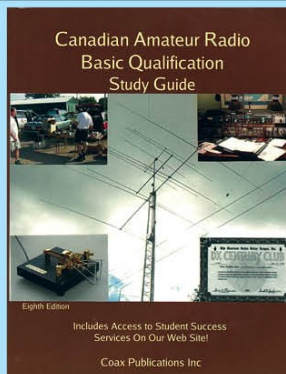
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COAX Publications



*Don't
forget...*

*The next meeting
is Wednesday,
September 10.
We have a great
new year of
programs and
events, starting
with the In-
House Swap
Meet. Bring your
unwanted items,
surplus and gear
for donation to
the meeting!*

The annual Langley Good Times Cruise-in will take place on Saturday Sept. 6th

The Cruise-in is a vintage car show which is so big they close off all downtown Langley City for the day. More information is available at: <http://www.langleycruise-in.com/>

I am calling for volunteers to take a shift or two at the SARC booth. Tentatively, the shifts will be 8-12 and 12-4 pm, but shorter shifts can be arranged if needed. Our job will be to provide information to the public, provide radio communication via net control to the emergency agencies (ambulance, fire and police), sell raffle tickets, and promote amateur radio.

Please respond and let me know if you can take a shift and help the cause. This is our one-and-only fund raising activity for the year, so we need a good turnout.

Please Support Our Sponsors

**LANGLEY GOOD TIMES
CRUISE-IN**



Saturday, September 6, 2014
IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN LANGLEY, BC CANADA
Western Canada's best attended charity event